

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0180

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID
SUBJECT: THE STUDENTS SIMMER DOWN - FOR THE MOMENT

REF: JAKARTA 17355

1. SUMMARY: WHILE INDONESIAN STUDENTS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THEIR DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN VARIOUS WAYS, KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO'S DEC 28 WARNING (REFTEL) SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED ACTIVISTS TO REFRAIN FOR THE MOMENT FROM DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH OFFICIALS. THE EARLY RELEASE OF TWO SMALL GROUPS OF STUDENTS DETAINED FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES HAS HELPED KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, BUT THE JAN. 4 DETENTION OF MUHAMMADIYAH UNIV-ERSITY RECTOR ISMAIL SUNY FOR MAKING AN INFLAMMATORY SPEECH A WEEK EARLIER MAY CAUSE ANOTHER OUTBREAK. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO WARNED STUDENTS DEC. 28 NOT TO STAGE ANY FURTHER STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR POLICIES, INDONESIAN UN-IVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE GENERALLY CONFINED THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO QUIET DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES ON CAMPUS AND REASONABLY POLITE MEETINGS WITH REGIONAL OFFICIALS. STU-CONFIDENTIAL

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DENTS DETAINED AFTER THE BANDUNG DEMONSTRATIONS IN LATE DECEMBER (VARIOUSLY REPORTED AS 5 OR 7) WERE RELEASED BY DEC 30, AND WEST JAVA GOVERNOR AANG KUNAEFI ORDERED PRO-VINVIAL OFFICIALS NOT TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION FROM JOURNALISTS AND STUDENTS, IN ORDER TO BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP WHICH HE SAID CAUSES POLITICAL TENSION.

3. SOUNDING A MORE NEGATIVE NOTE, BAKIN (INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING AGENCY) CHIEF LT. GEN. YOGA SUGAMA DECLARED DEC. 29 THAT THE STUDENT CONFRONTATION WITH THE WEST JAVA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY (DPRD) IN BANDUNG WAS A "WRONG ACTION WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH REPRESSIVELY," AS IT CONSTITUTED DEFIANCE OF THE ARMED FORCES STATEMENT OF DEC. 15 CALLING FOR NATIONAL UNITY. YOGA ADDED THAT HE WAS PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING WHEN THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR) IS IN SESSION, AND HE KNEW WHICH GROUPS MIGHT STAGE SUCH DISTURBANCES.

4. BANDUNG STUDENTS WERE NOT ENTIRELY INTIMIDATED, HOWEVER, AND ON JANUARY 1 SMALL DELEGATIONS FROM VARIOUS LOCAL UNIVERSITIES PRESENTED GIFT BOXES TO THE WEST JAVA DPRD. THEY MADE NO DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT QUIETLY INFORMED REPORTERS THAT THE BOXES CONTAINED ECENG GONOK (A WATER PLANT EATEN AS A LAST RESORT BY INHABITANTS OF FAMINE AREAS IN THE PROVINCE) AND WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR AND COSMETICS, THE INFERENCE BEING THAT THE DPRD HAD FORSAKEN BOTH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS MANHOOD.

5. ANOTHER GROUP OF STUDENTS RAN AFOUL OF THE LAW IN JAKARTA ON NEW YEAR'S EVE WHEN THEY PASSED OUT LEAFLETS TO NIGHT CLUB PATRONS PROTESTING THAT THE PRICE OF THEIR GALA DINNERS THAT EVENING COULD EACH PAY FOR A POOR MAN'S ANNUAL RICE SUPPLY. SIX MEMBERS OF THE JAKARTA STUDENT

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ASSOCIATION WERE ARRESTED, BUT WHEN THE ASSOCIATION LEADERS PROTESTED TO POLICE THAT THE LEAFLETS WERE NOT ILLEGAL THE STUDENTS WERE RELEASED WITHIN THREE DAYS. IN OTHER ACTIONS, THE INDONESIAN YOUNG MUSLIM GENERATION (GMII) EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE BANDUNG STUDENT PROTEST, FIFTY STUDENTS OF SRIWIDJAYA UNIVERSITY IN PALEMBANG CARRIED POSTERS TO A DIALOGUE WITH LOCAL MILITARY OFFICIALS ON THE DEC. 15 ARMED FORCES STATEMENT AND LATER CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS AS "UNSATISFACTORY," AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BANDUNG INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (ITB) STUDENT COUNCIL TOLD THE PRESS THAT MPR LEADERS HAD PROMISED TO RECEIVE A VISIT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL OVER INDONESIA ON JANUARY 7.

6. THIS GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF CALM AND CONTROLLED DISAGREEMENT, A RESULT IN GOOD PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO RELEASE STUDENTS AFTER A SHORT DETENTION RATHER THAN PROVIDE THEIR COLLEAGUES WITH A CAUSE FOR FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS, MAY BE BROKEN BY A JAN 4 ANNOUNCEMENT BY JAKARTA KGPAMTIB OFFICIALS OF THEIR DETENTION THE PREVIOUS EVENING OF PROF. DR. ISMAIL SUNY, RECTOR OF MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA, AND A FORMER MEMBER OF

PARLIAMENT. SUNY WAS DETAINED FOR REMARKS HE MADE DEC. 27 DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTION ACTION HELD AT THE JAKARTA TEACHERS COLLEGE. SUNY HAD STATED THAT CURRENT ACTIONS BY STUDENTS WERE CONSTITUTIONAL, WHILE GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO CONTROL THEM WERE UNCONSTITUTIONAL. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT A SENIOR GENERAL HAD A PERSONAL DEPOSIT OF 140 BILLION RUPIAH (US \$337 MILLION) IN A PRIVATE BANK, BUT GAVE NO NAME. ACCORDING TO THE JAN 4 ANNOUNCEMENT, SUNY HAD ALSO CHARGED THAT TWO GENERALS WERE POSSIBLY MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PKI). ON DEC. 30 HE HAD BEEN PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING REGARDING HIS STATEMENTS BUT WAS RELEASED LATER THE SAME DAY. HE REPORTEDLY PROMISED TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS VARIOUS CHARGES WITHIN THREE DAYS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND WAS PICKED UP FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION WHEN HE FAILED TO DO SO. THE GOI ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DETENTION STATED THAT HIS STATEMENTS WERE CLEARLY LIBELOUS AND INFLAMMATORY. NEWS OF SUNY'S DETENTION WAS CARRIED BY ONLY TWO INDONESIAN LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS ON JAN 5 AND RECEIVED NO MENTION IN GOVERNMENT-CONNECTED PUBLICATIONS. RIVES

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